

April 25, 2002

JOIN US IN URGING APPROPRIATORS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR CRUCIAL ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

Dear Colleague:

Did you know that Alzheimer's disease is on the verge of becoming the epidemic of the 21st Century? Today, four million Americans suffer with the illness and 14 million are expected to fall victim by 2050. The average lifetime cost of one Alzheimer's patient is estimated at \$174,000. But if scientists can find a way to delay the onset of the disease for even five years, our nation will save at least \$50 billion in annual health and long-term care costs.

Please join us in the fight to improve the lives of those afflicted and affected by Alzheimer's Disease by signing on to the Alzheimer's Task Force letter to the House Appropriators to ask for an increase in FY03 Alzheimer's research funding.

Specifically, the Task Force is urging consideration of the following:

- Increasing funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) sufficient to accommodate an expansion of Alzheimer's research to \$1 billion beginning as soon as possible. We believe an increase of \$200 million across all relevant NIH agencies which conduct research on Alzheimer's will significantly advance methods to develop prevention, treatment and therapeutic options against the disease.
- Providing \$2.25 million to fully fund the Alzheimer's Clinical Research and Training Program - a worthwhile program authorized last year to improve diagnosis, treatment and prevention.
- Expanding the Alzheimer's Matching Grant Program to \$25 million, enabling all 50 states to reach Alzheimer's families in underserved areas, particularly minority and rural communities.
- Appropriating \$250 million for a National Family Caregiver Support Program to help states and communities develop or expand respite, adult day care, and other supportive services for caregivers for persons of all ages and disabilities.
- Continuing \$900,000 in funding for Safe Return, a Department of Justice program to help law enforcement and public safety personnel locate and protect Alzheimer's patients who wander from home.

To sign on to our letter or to join the Alzheimer's Task Force please contact Angelique Skoulas with Rep. Ed Markey (5-2836) or Tim Lynagh with Rep. Chris Smith (5-2135).

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. MARKEY
Alzheimer's Task Force, Co-chair

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Alzheimer's Task Force, Co-chair